

*In the Claims*

Please substitute the following clean copy text for the pending claims of the same number:

1. (Once Amended) A circuit transferring a charge from a source to a reference potential, said circuit being placed between said source and a circuit to be protected, comprising:

a transmission line coupling the source and the circuit to be protected;

a transistor comprising a base, an emitter, and a collector; and

an electrical ground; wherein

the transistor is directly connected in reverse mode between the electrical ground and the transmission line.

2. (Once Amended) The circuit of claim 1, wherein said transistor is an *npn* transistor, the collector of said transistor is connected to the electrical ground, the base of said transistor is coupled to the electrical ground, and the emitter of said transistor is connected to the transmission line.

13. (Once Amended) A method of protecting a circuit from an electrostatic discharge comprising:

providing a bipolar junction transistor; and

coupling said transistor between the circuit and a pad coupled to the circuit, wherein,

said transistor is configured in reverse mode, the collector of said transistor being connected directly to ground.

19. (Once Amended) A circuit transferring a charge from a source to a reference potential, said circuit being placed between said source and a circuit to be protected, comprising:

means for transmitting electromagnetic signals coupling the source and the circuit to be protected;

means for switching electrical signals; and

an electrical ground; wherein:

said switching means is directly connected in reverse mode between the electrical ground and said transmitting means.